



THE WEEK

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Junior

Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS



Sunny Choi
USA



PARIS 2024



Noah Lyles
USA



Summer McIntosh
Canada

SUMMER GAMES

Dive into the Paris Olympics with our action-packed preview **p12**



Daiki Hashimoto
Japan



Sha'Carri Richardson
USA



Carlos Alcaraz
Spain





This week's big news



Who is JD Vance?



Donald Trump chose JD Vance, a US senator from Ohio, to be his Vice Presidential running mate on the Republican ticket. Vance, age 39, was elected to office in 2022. Before that, he served in the US Marines, attended Yale Law School, and wrote a best-selling book called *Hillbilly Elegy*, a memoir about his difficult childhood.

DID YOU KNOW?

In recent years, Presidential candidates have launched their campaigns about 19 months prior to the election.

Donald Trump (left) and JD Vance (right) at the Republican National Convention on July 15

Republicans rally around Trump

The Republican National Convention (RNC) opened this week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, after a shooting occurred in Butler, Pennsylvania, two days earlier. On July 13, gunshots were fired at a campaign rally for Donald Trump, the Republican who served as President from 2017–2021 and is seeking a second term in this year's election. Trump and two other people were injured, and two people died, including the gunman. Trump recovered and, on July 15, he announced his pick for Vice President and attended the convention.

What happened on July 13?

A few minutes after Trump began speaking at the rally, held outdoors at a fairground, several shots were fired toward him from a rooftop outside the arena. A bullet grazed Trump's right ear. He ducked behind the lectern and was immediately surrounded by agents from the Secret Service (government agency responsible for protecting current and former Presidents). The agents moved Trump safely offstage and into an SUV. He was taken to a nearby hospital, treated for a minor injury, and released. A person in the crowd, Corey Comperatore, age 50, was killed, and two people were seriously injured by the bullets fired. The shooter was killed by the Secret Service.



How did people react?

World leaders and US elected officials from both political parties strongly condemned the shooting and said political violence has no place in our nation. After the incident, Trump wrote on social media, "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand united and show our true character as Americans." In a special address from the White House, President Joe Biden called for Americans to "lower the temperature of our politics." He said, "While we may disagree, we are not enemies. We must stand together."

What is known about the shooter?

The shooter was identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks, age 20. He was a registered Republican from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, who worked as an aide at a nursing facility. The gun he used was an AR-15 rifle (a military-type weapon) that was bought legally by his father. Investigators said Crooks left few clues about what his motive for the shooting might have been. Authorities said he had no history of violence and no sign of mental health issues and had not been identified as a threat by law enforcement. Investigators said they believe he was acting alone and that there were no additional concerns for public safety.

What else happened?

On July 15, Trump announced JD Vance, a US senator, as his choice for Vice President (see box above). The announcement came on the first day of the RNC in Milwaukee, and Trump and Vance appeared together that evening at the event. Each of the two major political parties (Republican and Democrat) holds a convention in the summer before a Presidential election. People representing voters from all 50 states, known as delegates, gather to listen to speeches given by party leaders and choose their nominees. Trump and Vance were officially nominated as the Republican candidates on the first night of the four-day convention.

What will happen next?

The FBI (top federal law enforcement agency) said it was investigating the July 13 shooting and trying to determine why Crooks carried out the attack. Biden ordered an independent review of the shooting, and investigators are looking into any lapses in security that enabled Crooks to access a rooftop so close to a Presidential rally. Republican officials said security is very tight at the RNC, where Trump and Vance were set to speak when *The Week Junior* went to press. The Democratic National Convention will take place from August 19–22 in Chicago, Illinois.

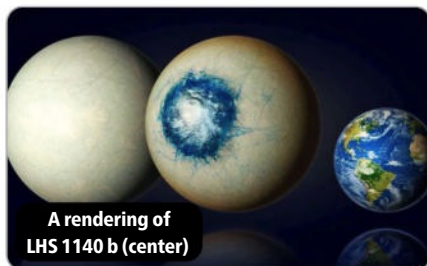


“Eyeball” planet could support life

Using data from the James Webb Space Telescope, scientists determined that an exoplanet (planet outside our solar system) has the conditions needed to support life. The planet, called LHS 1140 b, is known as an “eyeball” planet because it resembles a giant human eye. It is about 50 light-years (the distance light travels in one Earth year) from Earth.

To be able to support life, a planet must be in what is called the “Goldilocks” zone, meaning it’s not too hot or too cold and has liquid water. Researchers said the “iris,” or center, of the eyeball on LHS 1140 b appears to be a body of water surrounded by a wall of ice. The water’s temperature could be about 68° F.

LHS 1140 b was first discovered in 2017. At the time, scientists thought it was made of gas, like Neptune. Data gathered by Webb, however, showed that it is rocky, which is more like Earth. The team will continue to study data provided by Webb, the most powerful space telescope ever put into space, which NASA launched in 2021.



A rendering of LHS 1140 b (center)



Refugee Paralympic Team announced

On July 9, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced the Refugee Paralympic Team (RPT) that will compete at the 2024 Paralympic Games. The team consists of eight athletes and a guide runner who had to leave their home countries due to war, conflict, or human rights violations. The Games will run from August 28 to September 8 in Paris, France.

Para athletes have impairments that may be physical (affecting the body’s shape or movement), visual (affecting the ability to see), or intellectual (affecting thinking or communication). The RPT represents more than 120 million people around the world who were forced from their homelands, as well as 1.2 billion people with disabilities.

This year’s team (shown above, clockwise from top left) includes Ibrahim Al Hussein, a refugee

from Syria currently living in Greece. He is returning for his third Games and switching from swimming to the Para triathlon. Two athletes from Afghanistan will compete in Para taekwondo — Zakia Khudadadi, who lives in France, and Hadi Hassanzada, who lives in Austria. Amelio Castro Grueso, who is from Colombia and lives in Italy, will compete in wheelchair fencing.

Three athletes from Iran who live in Germany will compete: Salman Abbariki in Para Athletics shot put, Sayed Amir Hossein Hosseini Pour in Para table tennis, and Hadi Darvish in Para powerlifting. Guillaume Junior Atangana, from Cameroon and living in the UK, will compete in the 100-meter and 400-meter dash with guide Donard Ndim Nyamjua.

The team will lead the Parade of Athletes at the Paralympics opening ceremony on August 28.



IT’S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A SWEET CELEBRATION

July 21 marks the 40th anniversary of National Ice Cream Day. To celebrate, the Museum of Ice Cream is throwing an “epic ice cream party” at locations around the world. Guests can enjoy free scoops and jump in “sprinkle pools.”



The train team

TOPPING A TUBE RECORD

Eight teens from the UK set a new record for the London Tube Challenge, visiting all 272 stations on the London Underground train system in 18 hours, 8 minutes, and 13 seconds. It was the third try for the friends, who overcame train delays and power outages. It was “incredible,” one said.

RETURNING TO THE WILD

After spending three months at a turtle medical center recovering from flipper injuries, a 375-pound loggerhead sea turtle named Bubba was returned to the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Florida. Bubba is thought to be 60 to 75 years old. The center said its goal is “to release all our sea turtle patients back to the ocean.”



Bubba



WEATHER REPORT

Hurricane season, when storms are most likely to form over the Atlantic Ocean, is from June 1 to November 30 this year.



A man cuts a fallen tree next to a flooded road in Houston, Texas.

A helpful fast-food app



After the storm, Houston resident Bryan Norton noticed that the app for fast-food chain Whataburger showed which of its restaurant locations were open. He wrote on social media that residents could use the app to figure out which areas had power in order to go there to cool off. His post received more than 7 million views.

Hurricane affects millions in Texas

A hurricane struck Southeast Texas, including the city of Houston, on July 8, when 80 mph winds and heavy rain caused widespread damage and power outages. More than a week later, officials were still working to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands of customers.

What happened?

The hurricane, which officials named Beryl, formed over the Atlantic Ocean and strengthened into a Category 5 hurricane (the strongest on a scale of 1 to 5). When Beryl reached Texas, it had weakened into a Category 1 hurricane but still battered the state, especially Houston and its surrounding areas that have an overall population of about 7 million. The

hurricane was reclassified as a storm and brought tornadoes and severe thunderstorms to Texas and other states, including Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Indiana.

What happened in Houston?

Beryl knocked out power for about 2.3 million customers in Houston. Thousands of residences had no drinking water after 135 water treatment plants were damaged and unable to operate. On July 12, the US government declared a public health emergency to give aid to the state, including opening cooling centers and providing essential supplies like water. A private company estimated that it will cost more than \$2.5 billion to repair buildings damaged by wind. At least nine people in Texas and Louisiana died due to the storms.

How did people react?

Many people were angry at CenterPoint Energy, which provides power for the Houston area. More than a week after Beryl struck, about 500,000 customers were still without power when the heat index (what the temperature feels like) reached 106° F. CenterPoint said employees were working around the clock to restore power, but progress was slow because trees had to be cleared first.

What will happen next?

People whose homes and businesses were located in the path of the storm will continue cleaning up from the flood and wind damage. Texas Governor Greg Abbott called for an investigation into why the power grid for the Houston area was so unprepared for the storm.



WORD OF THE WEEK

SQUIRREL

The word "squirrel" is Greek in origin and is made up of *skia*, meaning "shadow," and *oura*, meaning "tail." The name was inspired by the animal's bushy tail, which stretches along its back and can go over its head.



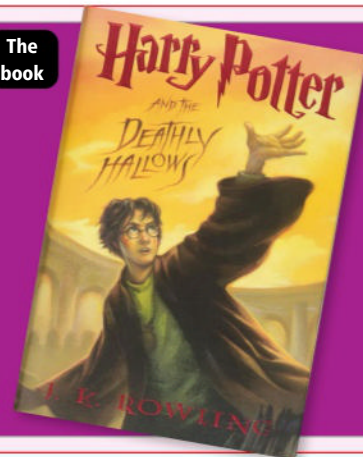
THE WEEK IN HISTORY

July 21, 2007

Final Harry Potter book is released

On July 21, 2007, the seventh and final book in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was published. The 759-page book was released one minute after midnight, and bookstores hosted special parties that night to sell it to fans. More than 8 million copies were sold in the first 24 hours. The series has been translated into more than 80 languages.

The book





A crowd of people at an airport



Air travel increases in the US

More than 3 million people passed through US airport security lines on July 7, the most ever on a single day, reported the Transportation Security Administration (TSA, the US agency that oversees transport security). The TSA screened 35 passengers every second. The previous record was set on June 23, when more than 2.99 million passengers went through. Eight of the 10 busiest travel days since the TSA was formed in 2001 have been in 2024.



The photo of Dolley Madison

Early photograph of a First Lady

The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, has acquired the earliest known photographic image of a US First Lady. It is a daguerreotype of former First Lady Dolley Madison, wife of the fourth US President, James Madison, and is believed to have been taken in about 1846, when she was between ages 70 and 80. Daguerreotypes were created using a silver-plated copper plate.



Louisiana's new "I Voted" sticker

Louisiana has released the sticker that voters in the state will receive after casting their ballot in the general election on November 5. The design, created by Louisiana resident and award-winning artist William Joyce, depicts a cartoon crawfish wearing a top hat and a blue tuxedo jacket. Louisiana leads the nation in crawfish production, and the crawfish is a symbol of the state.



Top honors in sports are awarded

Outstanding players, teams, and achievements in sports were celebrated on July 11 at the 2024 ESPY Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, California. The ESPYs (which stand for Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) are given by ESPN, the sports media company. This year's event, hosted by tennis legend Serena Williams, was notable for highlighting achievements in women's sports.

The award for best team went to the University of South Carolina women's basketball team, who won this year's national college championship. Caitlin Clark, who now plays for the WNBA's Indiana Fever, won two ESPYs for her accomplishments at the University of Iowa. The Breakthrough Athlete honor went to basketball star JuJu Watkins, who had a record-breaking first-year season with the University of Southern California.

Best Athlete in men's sports went to Patrick Mahomes, quarterback for the NFL's Kansas City

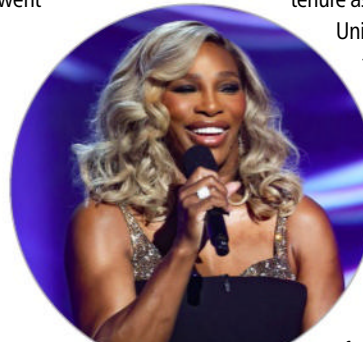
Chiefs, who also won Best NFL Player. A'ja Wilson of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces was named Best Athlete in women's sports and Best WNBA Player.

The South Carolina women's basketball coach, Dawn Staley, was honored with the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance for advocating for women in sports and for promoting cancer research. Nick Saban, who retired in January after a successful

tenure as the head coach of the University of Alabama's football team, received the Icon Award.

The Pat Tillman Award for Service, given in honor of a professional football player who joined the US Army and died while serving in Afghanistan in 2004, was presented to Prince Harry of the UK royal family. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Invictus Games,

which he created as a multi-sport competition for wounded or injured service members and veterans. "This award belongs to them, not to me," Harry said in his acceptance speech.



Serena Williams

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Thieving bear steals workers' lunch from pickup truck in California" UPI





Around the world

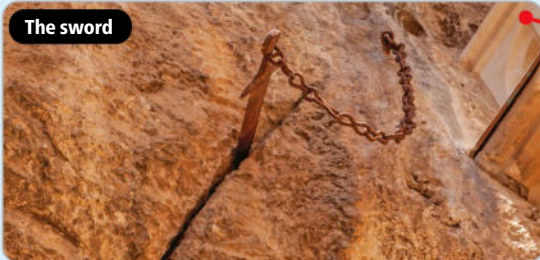
A grizzly bear



Alberta, Canada Bear hunting allowed again

A 2006 ban on hunting grizzly bears in the province of Alberta has been reversed. Under a new rule, certain authorized people will be able to hunt “problem bears”—those that have killed farm animals or been involved in conflicts with humans. Conservationists expressed concern about the impact this could have on the species, which is listed as threatened in Alberta. Approximately 900 grizzly bears live in the province.

The sword



Rocamadour, France Mystery of the missing sword

A famous sword has disappeared. According to legend, a knight named Roland owned an indestructible sword known as Durandal. The story goes that Roland tried to destroy the sword by throwing it as far as he could, and it plunged into a rock. Durandal stayed there for nearly 1,300 years and was later chained to the cliff about 30 feet above the ground. Now police say the sword vanished overnight and was likely stolen.

Cattle in the Amazon rainforest



Colombia Forest loss slows down

The environment ministry in Colombia announced that in 2023, deforestation (cutting down large areas of forest) reached its lowest level in 23 years. Most of the deforestation in Colombia takes place in the Amazon, the world’s largest rainforest. The government has been taking steps to protect the Amazon, including putting limits on farms expanding in the area.

London, UK Rooms open in royal palace

Buckingham Palace is opening rooms to the public that have never been accessible before. Visitors to the royal residence will now be able to see rooms in the East Wing, including the Yellow Drawing Room, where Queen Elizabeth II sat for portraits, and the Principal Corridor, which is lined with paintings of ancestors of the royal family.

The Principal Corridor



Messina Strait, Italy Slackline feat

On July 10, Estonian adventurer Jaan Roose walked across the Messina Strait, a body of water between Italy’s mainland and the island of Sicily, on a 0.75-inch-wide slackline (a kind of tightrope). At nearly 2.4 miles in length, it was the longest slackline ever constructed, and Roose crossed it in under three hours. His attempt was not eligible for a world record because he fell off once near the end, but he made history as the first person to walk across the strait.

Walking the line



ROYAL COLLECTION ENTERPRISES LIMITED 2024/ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST; MATTEO MOCELLINI/RED BULL; SHUTTERSTOCK (2); GETTY IMAGES (6)

Around the world



Kaja Kallas



Estonia Leader leaves for new role

Kaja Kallas, Estonia's prime minister, stepped down from her position on July 15 and will take a new role with the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations) later this year. Kallas, who was the nation's first female prime minister, will be in charge of the EU's foreign policy. Her party will choose a new leader on September 8.



Copenhagen's
Nyhavn district



Copenhagen, Denmark Rewards for eco-friendly tourists

Copenhagen has launched a program to reward tourists for doing environmentally friendly tasks. With the CopenPay initiative, if visitors pick up litter or travel using bikes and public transit, they can earn free food or activities like boat cruises and museum visits. Millions visit the city, so organizers said the goal of CopenPay is to reduce tourists' negative effects on the environment and turn tourism "into a force for positive change."



Yoweri
Museveni



Entebbe, Uganda TikToker jailed for mocking president

A Ugandan man has been sentenced to six years in prison for insulting the country's president, Yoweri Museveni, and his family on TikTok. Edward Awebwa was tried under a law that was introduced in 2022 to stop people from criticizing or mocking government officials on social media. Awebwa pleaded guilty to the charges. Human rights groups say the Ugandan authorities are limiting free speech.



Giggles are
recommended.



Yamagata, Japan Government encourages laughter

A new rule calls for people living in Yamagata to laugh at least once a day. The idea was inspired by research at a local university that suggested laughing is good for people's health and can reduce the risk of heart problems. Businesses have been told to create workplaces "filled with laughter," and the eighth day of each month is dedicated to promoting health with laughs.



Singapore Bugs on the menu

The Singapore Food Agency has approved 16 insects as safe for humans to eat. The list includes crickets, grasshoppers, moths, mealworms, and a species of honeybee. Insects can be an environmentally friendly source of protein because farming them doesn't use as much space or water as raising livestock, such as cows. Now that eating bugs is approved, a local restaurant chain is adding 30 insect-based dishes to its menu.



Bugs for
breakfast?



The big debate

Should streets be closed so kids can play?

More cars on the road mean fewer children are getting outside to have fun.

What you need to know

- Studies show that over the past few decades, there's been a drop in the number of children who regularly play on their street. Many parents say it's because cars make streets unsafe.
- Many studies show that playing outdoors is vital to young people's mental and physical well-being.
- Health experts recommend that kids ages 6 to 17 should have 60 minutes or more of physical activity a day.
- In some places, there aren't enough parks or outdoor spaces for children.



WOW!
Tennis great Althea Gibson grew up on a New York City street that was closed to traffic, which is where she first played the game.

Your parents and grandparents probably spent long summer afternoons playing outside near their homes. These days, however, kids in the US spend no more than four hours a week outdoors, according to some studies. That's due in part to safety concerns, as more cars are on the streets than ever. To get children back outside, many US cities have "open streets" programs, which close off streets to cars so children can play freely and safely. While many parents and children's health experts applaud these efforts, others say it causes problems, like heavy traffic and fewer customers for shops and businesses. What do you think? Should streets be closed so kids can play?

Yes—reclaim the roads

Why should cars have priority over kids? Closing streets to vehicles lets children get as much outdoor activity as possible, which improves physical well-being, reduces anxiety, boosts mood, and cuts down on screen time. Car-free streets are fun for kids and important for those who don't have access to much outdoor space. When there are no cars, the streets are safer, which means children don't need as much adult supervision. That gives kids freedom and helps them build independence and confidence. Open streets also allow neighbors to get to know each other and build community. That's great for kids and adults.

No—it creates other problems

There's already too much traffic—closing streets would just make it worse on surrounding roads. Drivers would have to find different routes, which would lead to congestion elsewhere in the area. That's inconvenient and stressful for people trying to get around and go to local shops. And what about parking? Closed streets reduce the number of parking spots for everyone in the neighborhood. Besides, children should play in parks or playgrounds. Unlike residential streets, they're designed for safe play. If the local park is a bit of a walk, that's fine. Getting there will provide more exercise.

YES Three reasons streets should be closed so kids can play

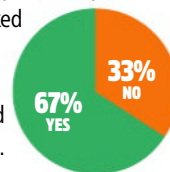
- 1 Some children don't have access to outdoor space, but all kids need to get outside and play for their well-being.
- 2 Streets without cars are safer. Kids can play with less adult supervision, which boosts independence and confidence.
- 3 Closed roads let children and adults get together, leading to a sense of community.

NO Three reasons streets should not be closed so kids can play

- 1 Closing streets means drivers have to find alternate routes, which makes traffic worse.
- 2 Car-free streets mean fewer parking spots, which is inconvenient for the whole neighborhood.
- 3 Parks and playgrounds, with green space and open areas, are more suitable for running around than streets are.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if an ice cream cone is better than a cup. Most of you prefer your scoops stacked on a classic cone: 67% said yes, and 33% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think streets should be closed so kids can play or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



A passion for sharks

Ultra-athlete Ross Edgley pushes limits in and out of the water.

Ross Edgley is an adventurer, athlete, and world-record holder who is famous for taking on extraordinary physical challenges. In 2018, he became the first person to swim around the coast of Great Britain, covering nearly 1,800 miles over 157 days. In the new National Geographic special *Shark vs. Ross Edgley*, now streaming on Disney+, he tests his abilities against those of the sharks.

Edgley, age 38, grew up in Grantham, England. His father, a tennis coach, and his mother, a schoolteacher, instilled in him a passion for setting and achieving goals from an early age. He excelled in swimming and earned a spot on England's national water polo team at the junior level. Edgley went on to study sports business and developed theories on physical training at Loughborough University in England.



Shark vs. Ross Edgley

Edgley's interest in sharks was inspired by his big 2018 swim. He told *The Week Junior* it sparked a revelation: "There are so many species of sharks, each with amazing abilities." In *Shark vs. Ross Edgley*, he fuses sports science with shark science and meets with shark experts to create safe ways to test himself against different species. For example, he eats 40,000 calories in a day to swim against a tiger shark and trains with England's Olympic synchronized swimming team to jump higher out of the water than a great white shark.

Edgley hopes the show inspires respect for sharks and their ocean habitat. He also wants viewers to see the benefits of being curious, which is his guiding philosophy. "You don't need a plan in life," Edgley said, "as long as you just follow your passion."



Ross Edgley

SPEEDY SWIMMER

The shortfin mako, the fastest shark in the world, can reach speeds of more than 43 miles per hour.

Sharing her stories

Veterinarian Amy Attas has treated animals in New York City for 32 years. Now she's written a book called *Pets and the City* filled with tales from her job. It was inspired by her childhood hero, veterinarian James Herriot, who wrote about working with animals in the mid-1900s English countryside. Like Herriot, Attas makes house calls, treating pets in their homes. She has cared for more than 7,000 animals, including the three-legged pug of the famous singer Billy Joel. The book also includes helpful tips from Attas for pet owners.



Amy Attas



Catherine Laga'aia

Actress gets big role

Catherine Laga'aia, a 17-year-old Australian actress, has landed the lead role in Disney's live-action adaptation of the animated musical *Moana*, which is expected to be released in 2025. *Moana*, set in ancient Polynesia, follows a brave girl on a voyage to save her island. Laga'aia is of Samoan descent (early inhabitants of what is now Hawaii), and her casting is part of the filmmakers' goal of celebrating the communities and traditions of the region. The role will be Laga'aia's film debut. She said she was "honored" to have the part and "to represent young girls who look like me."

OVERHEARD



"Talent has a broad definition. Most of the time it's not about having a gift; it's about having grit."

Roger Federer, age 42, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, in a graduation speech to Dartmouth University's class of 2024



Animals and the environment

VARIETY OF LIFE

There are more than 500 species of sharks around the world.



Blue sharks have developed long, narrow pectoral fins.

Cozy spots for sharks

Baby great white sharks are very vulnerable because they are left on their own from birth. However, a study revealed that young great whites (below) gather in warm, shallow water close to the shore. Scientists think warmer water might help them grow faster and that these shark “nurseries” could offer protection from predators.



How sharks rose to the top

A new study sheds light on how sharks became important marine predators—and it looks like ocean warming played a big part in their rise.

Millions of years ago, all sharks lived in the depths of the oceans, as many species still do today. These ancient bottom-dwellers were smaller and less powerful than modern sharks, but eventually some evolved into the large, fast, deadly carnivores that exist today, such as the great white shark. Scientists wanted to find out why.

A team of experts from California recorded body and fin measurements from more than 500 shark species, both living and fossilized (preserved

traces of ancient animals). This allowed them to see how sharks changed over time.

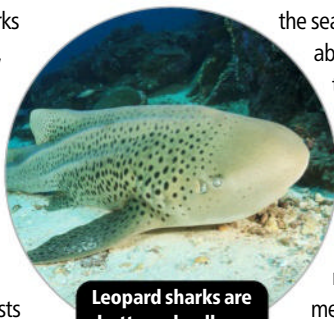
The researchers think sharks moved up from the seabed after volcanic eruptions about 93 million years ago caused the Earth, including the oceans, to heat up. When water gets warmer, it holds less oxygen, so some sharks likely headed toward open water near the surface in order to breathe more easily. Contact with air meant this water contained more oxygen, even though it was warmer than the dark depths at the bottom of the sea.

Sharks’ muscles are sensitive to temperature and actually perform better in warmer water. This

meant the animals were able to swim faster once they began living higher up. Speed was important because life was also more action-packed near the surface, with bigger and faster-moving prey.

Over time, the researchers believe these changes led to sharks developing bigger pectoral fins on the side of their bodies. Phillip Sternes, who led the study, said that because these fins are long and narrow like airplane wings, they reduce the amount of energy the animals need to use in order to move. That makes sharks more efficient predators, so they can better compete for food.

Today, ocean temperatures are rising rapidly, and many shark species have begun seeking out colder or deeper waters. Scientists are curious to see how the marine animals will adapt to their changing environment in the future.



Leopard sharks are bottom-dwellers.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Mackinac Island, Michigan

Mackinac Island is one of about 35,000 islands in the Great Lakes. It’s located in Lake Huron, off the coast of Michigan. The island measures 4.35 square miles, and more than 80% of it is a state park. Cars aren’t allowed on Mackinac. Instead, people get around by walking, bicycling, or riding in a horse and buggy. The island has several natural rock formations and wildlife such as chipmunks, snowshoe hares, red foxes, raccoons, squirrels, muskrats, and weasels. In the winter, white-tailed deer, coyotes, and bobcats can be spotted walking across the frozen lake.



A chipmunk



SAVED FOR LATER

Tasmanian devils store fat in their tails so they can use it for energy when resources are scarce.



A pair of Tasmanian devils

Tasmanian devil “ambassadors” arrive

Eight Tasmanian devils recently traveled from Australia to the US as part of a program to bring attention to the species and the threats it faces. Tasmanian devils are marsupials, which are mammals that raise their young in a pouch. They live in the Australian island state of Tasmania.

The furry ambassadors are part of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, run by the Australian and Tasmanian governments. The program raises awareness about a rare, contagious illness called devil facial tumor disease that has wiped out up to 95% of the

Tasmanian devil population. The ambassador program launched in 2013 and has sent 51 devils to 21 zoos across Europe, New Zealand, Japan, and the US.

In June, the latest group of devils boarded a plane to the US in special crates that allowed zookeepers to care for them throughout the flight. After a period of isolation, they will settle into their new homes at zoos in Texas, Ohio, and Missouri. Meanwhile, conservationists are working on protecting wild Tasmanian devils and increasing the species' population.

Animal of the Week

Giant pangolin



For the first time in 24 years, a giant pangolin has been spotted in Senegal, in western Africa. A camera trap, which takes photos when it senses movement, captured images of the endangered animal walking in Niokolo-Koba National Park.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 20 years in captivity
- **HABITAT:** Forests, savannas, and swamps in Africa
- **SIZE:** Up to 6 feet long and 73 pounds
- **DIET:** Ants and termites
- **FUN FACT:** To protect themselves, pangolins roll into tight armored balls and release a foul odor.



Good week / Bad week



Shelter dogs

A study found that pairing dogs together in shelter enclosures reduces their stress and speeds up adoptions. Dogs in pairs showed less stressed behavior, such as whining, and were adopted an average of four days faster than solo canines.



Brazil's Pantanal wetland

It has been an intense wildfire season, and experts in Brazil are concerned about the world's largest tropical wetland. About 80,000 acres of Pantanal—which is a habitat for jaguars, giant anteaters, and giant river otters—have been destroyed.



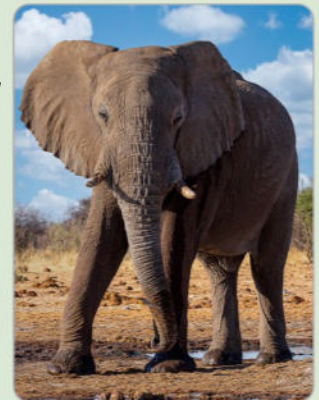
“Why do elephants have trunks?”

Mary-Elizabeth, 10, Alabama

Ross MacPhee

Mammal expert,
American Museum of Natural History

For an elephant, a trunk is like a hand but so much more. It helps them gather food, breathe, make sounds, drink water (trunks are straws!), and remove obstacles in their way. Mothers caress and clean their babies with their trunks, and adults greet one another with a “trunk shake.”



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the American Museum of Natural History at amnh.org.



Olympics preview

Let the Paris Games

Find out everything you need to know about the 2024 Olympics.

The Summer Olympics, one of the world's biggest sporting events, officially starts in Paris, France, on July 26. The two-week competition will feature 32 sports and about 10,500 athletes from around the world. Check out this four-page preview to learn about the mascots, the medals, the star athletes, and more!

This year's Olympics

Paris will host the Games for the third time — 100 years after it last hosted in 1924. This year's theme is "Games wide open," and organizers have created a special open-air arena in the heart of the city. For the first time in Summer Olympics history, every medal winner will be invited to celebrate with fans in this public space. In another first this year, breaking will make its debut as an Olympic sport. Surfing, skateboarding, and sport climbing will return after their debut at the Tokyo Games in 2021.



US breaker
Sunny Choi

History of the Games



The Olympic Games began almost 3,000 years ago in Olympia, in ancient Greece. At first, the only event was a race run around a track, called the stade (the origin of the word "stadium"). Over time, more sports, including wrestling and boxing, were added. The Games stopped being played around the year 400, but French nobleman Pierre de Coubertin revived them about 1,500 years later. The first modern Olympics took place in Athens, Greece, in 1896. Since then, it's been held in the summer every four years, with few exceptions. The Winter Olympics, for snow and ice sports, began in 1924. It takes place two years after every Summer Olympics.

Team uniforms

Team USA wears red, white, and blue. For the opening ceremony, athletes will wear navy blazers with blue jeans designed by Ralph Lauren. For the closing ceremony, he designed white denim race jackets with patches. During competition, many athletes will wear Nike uniforms made for mobility and breathability.



Closing ceremony uniforms

GLOBAL STAGE

Athletes from more than 200 national teams will compete at the Paris Olympics.



Fifteen million visitors are expected in Paris during the Olympics.

Meet the mascots

The 2024 mascots are the Olympic and Paralympic Phryges ("freezh"). They are based on Phrygian caps, a type of hat that dates to ancient times and became a symbol of freedom during the French Revolution (1787–1799). Find out more about the Phryges at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-





begin



MAKING A SPLASH
Aquatic sports will award the most medals this year, with 49 events in disciplines such as swimming, diving, and water polo.

Life as an Olympic athlete

Many famous athletes are preparing to compete in Paris, including gymnast Simone Biles of the US, tennis player Naomi Osaka of Japan, and professional basketball player LeBron James of the US.

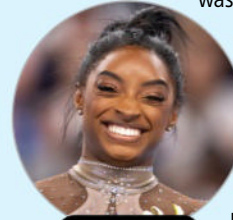
How they train

Olympic athletes follow strict regimens. US volleyball star Matt Anderson wakes by 6 a.m. and spends two and a half hours on the court, then lifts weights for two hours. Sky Brown, a 15-year-old UK skateboarder, skates every day but says she doesn't think of it as training because "that's what I love to do." To prepare for the Games, she added

barbell workouts and hip-hop choreography to her routine.

Where they stay

Most athletes will live at the Olympic Village, which spans three Paris suburbs. The village was built using 75%



Simone Biles

recycled materials.

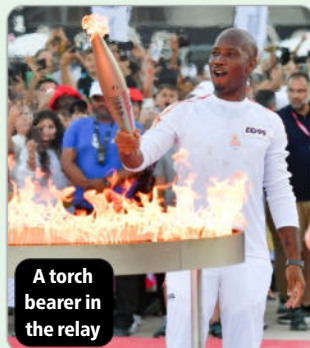
For example, there are more than 16,000 beds with frames made out of cardboard. At least 40,000 meals will be served each day. Facilities include a fitness center, post office, and shops. Athletes will cross a sleek steel footbridge from the village to event venues. After the Games, the village will be turned into a neighborhood with parks, offices, and 2,500 new homes.

The footbridge



The torch relay

The Olympics kick off with a torch relay. The torch was lit in April in Olympia, Greece, then crossed the Mediterranean Sea by ship to France. It has been carried across France by 10,000 people since May. The torch is made of recycled steel and weighs 3.3 pounds. The design was inspired by the rippling water of the Seine River in Paris.



A torch bearer in the relay

The medals

The jewelry company Chaumet designed this year's gold, silver, and bronze medals. At the center of each medal is a six-sided piece of iron that was once part of the Eiffel Tower. Each ribbon features a pattern that resembles the tower's structure.





PARIS 2024

Olympics preview

About Paris

The Games will take place in France's capital city, Paris, located in the north of the country. About 11.3 million people live in Paris' 890-square-mile metropolitan area.

The city is divided into 20 districts called arrondissements, each with

its own personality, from stylish cafés in the 3rd to lush parks in the 19th. Winding through

the city's heart is the Seine River, which flows northwest to empty into

the English Channel at France's northern border. Along its banks are renowned landmarks including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre art museum, and, on a small island in the river, Notre-Dame Cathedral. At the juncture of 12 grand avenues stands the Arc de Triomphe, a national symbol of France.



The Arc de Triomphe

Olympic venues

The Games will take place in 35 locations. Most are in Paris, but soccer games and other events will be held throughout France. Surfing will happen on the island of Tahiti, a French territory in the Pacific Ocean. Beach volleyball will take place under the Eiffel Tower, and equestrian events will be held at the Palace of Versailles. Track and field will be at the Stade de France. Two new venues built for the Games are the Aquatics Center, which is also a solar energy farm, and Porte de la Chapelle Arena, which is covered in plants to blend in with local parks.

DID YOU KNOW?

This year is the first time in the history of the Olympic Summer Games that the opening ceremony will not be held in a stadium.



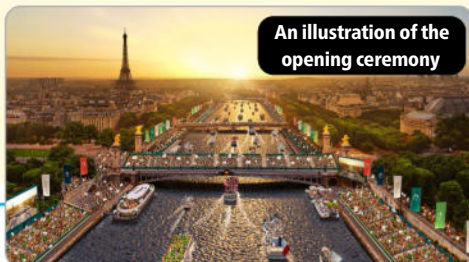
Sailing events will take place in Marseilles.

A viewer's guide to the Games

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony for the 2024 Paris Olympics will take place at 1:30 p.m. ET on July 26. (Because of the Olympics' busy schedule, some competitions will begin one or two days before the ceremony.) The Parade of Nations will be held on the Seine River, with more than 90 boats carrying the athletes through Paris, and will end near the Eiffel Tower. One special athlete will carry the Olympic torch on its final leg to light the Olympic cauldron, symbolizing that the Games have begun.

An illustration of the opening ceremony



Week one (July 24–July 31)

Medals will be awarded starting on July 27 in events such as **swimming**, **diving**, and **rugby**. In **archery**, Turkey's Mete Gazoz will be looking to win his second straight gold medal. In **judo**, France's Teddy Riner holds the record for most Olympic medals and will be competing to extend his total at this year's Games. After making its Olympic debut at the previous summer Olympics, **skateboarding** will be back at this year's Games on July 27 and July 28. Fencers will also be facing off this week. Lee Kiefer of the US will try to repeat her Olympic triumph in 2020 as the gold medalist in **foil fencing**. Other events that kick off this week include **canoeing**, **cycling**, **surfing**, and **triathlon**.



Lee Kiefer

Olympics preview



OLYMPIC HISTORY

France has previously hosted five other Olympic Games, including the first Winter Olympics in Chamonix in 1924.



Who to watch

With the best athletes in the world gathered in Paris for the Games, expect exciting performances and competitive matchups. In track and field, **Sha'Carri Richardson**, the fastest woman in the world in the 100-meter race, could become the first American woman to dominate the event in nearly three decades. In men's gymnastics, Japan's **Daiki Hashimoto**, who won all-around gold in Tokyo in 2021, will be the gymnast to beat. In swimming, Canadian **Summer McIntosh**,



Sha'Carri Richardson

age 17, is a rising star in the sport and already a two-time world



Daiki Hashimoto

champion in the 200-meter butterfly. One of swimming's all-time greats, **Katie Ledecky** of the US, is heavily favored to add to her astonishing count of 10 Olympic medals.



Summer McIntosh

Another returning Olympic veteran is **Eliud Kipchoge**, one of the most decorated marathon runners in history, who will be running for Kenya. In



Eliud Kipchoge

tennis, a dynamic duo will take the court for Spain, as legend **Rafael Nadal** and rising young star **Carlos Alcaraz** will join forces

How to watch

Media all over the world will cover the Olympics. In the US, NBC is the main network for televising the games. Many sports will air live throughout the day. Every night, NBC will air taped coverage of the day's top moments. The Games will also air on USA Network, GOLF channel, and E!, and Spanish-language broadcasts will air on Telemundo and Universo. The Games will also be available for streaming on [NBC.com](https://www.nbc.com), [NBCOlympics.com](https://www.nbcolympics.com), and the Peacock and NBC Sports apps. See the full schedule at [nbcolympics.com/schedule](https://www.nbcolympics.com/schedule).

Week two (August 1–August 11)

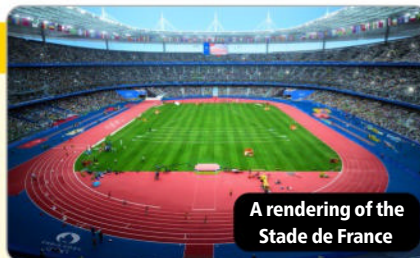
Many of the competitions in **track and field**, also known as athletics, will be held during the second half of the Olympics. For the US, Ryan Crouser is competing to become a three-time champion in the **shot put**, while Noah Lyles of the US is a star to watch in the **100-meter dash**. Victor Montalvo and Sunny Choi of the US will bring

excitement to the debut sport of **breaking**, taking place on August 9 and 10.

Weightlifting and **wrestling** will wrap up toward the end of the Games, as will team sports such as **volleyball** and **basketball**. In basketball, Team USA is sending star-studded lineups that include Kevin Durant, who will attempt to become a four-time gold medalist on the men's team, and Breanna Stewart and A'ja Wilson on the women's team.



Noah Lyles



A rendering of the Stade de France

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. ET on August 11 in France's national stadium, the Stade de France. The ceremony starts with a Parade

of Flags, with the Greek flag first and the French flag last. Final medals will be awarded in sports such as basketball, volleyball, and water polo. The Olympic torch will pass to a representative of Los Angeles, recognizing the California city as the next Summer Olympics host, in 2028. Then the Olympic flame will be put out, ending this year's Games.



BLAZING A TRAIL

On June 18, 1983, NASA astronaut Sally K. Ride became the first American woman in space.

Crew member Hayley Arceneaux on the Inspiration4 mission

Space flight easier on women

A new study found that women tolerate the physical challenges of space travel better than men and recover faster when they return to Earth. People who travel into space can experience changes to bones, muscles, and brain function.

Researchers studied data collected from the crew of the Inspiration4 mission. The world's first space mission with an all-civilian crew, meaning they were not professional astronauts, orbited Earth for three days in 2021.

The team of scientists measured certain health indicators in the Inspiration4 crew before, during, and after their journey into space. These included heart rate, oxygen levels, memory and attention, and mood. The researchers compared that data to information gathered from 64 trained astronauts, who had spent at least six months on the International Space Station.

In particular, the researchers studied how space flight affected the space travelers' genes (short sections of DNA, a chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) and immune systems (network that helps the body

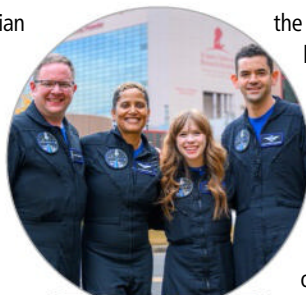
fight infections and disease). They found changes to chemicals in the body that affect inflammation, blood clotting, and the ability to fight off infections.

By almost all the measures the researchers studied, men's bodies experienced greater changes due to space travel. The male astronauts also took longer to recover from the stresses of the journey once they had returned to Earth.

Scientists aren't yet sure why women seem better suited to space flight. Christopher Mason, a lead researcher, believes it could be their bodies' ability to cope with the demands of pregnancy and the huge physical changes they experience.

For example, the amount of blood in a woman's body can increase by up to 50% during pregnancy, and their system must adapt.

More research is needed to confirm the study's results. Because there are fewer female than male astronauts, only a few women have been studied. The team hopes the research can be used to improve astronauts' recovery from long space flights. It might also change how the crews on space missions are chosen.



The Inspiration4 crew

Study of astronauts' health

A rendering of a human camp on Mars



NASA (the US space agency) is working toward sending astronauts on long-term missions to Mars by the 2030s. In preparation, scientists are researching how such missions might affect different aspects of astronauts' health. One study looked at how space flight specifically affects the kidneys (organs that clean waste products from the blood and make urine).

The study found that astronauts' kidneys were "remodeled" by space travel, with changes to the physical makeup and functioning of the organs. The changes were most likely caused by lower forces of gravity and radiation. The team said medicines and other treatments could be developed to protect the kidneys of astronauts on long missions.



Scientists discover extinct egg-laying mammals

Fossils stashed away in a museum drawer for 25 years were found to belong to egg-laying mammals that lived about 100 million years ago. They included three newly identified species.

Egg-laying mammals are called monotremes. Only two kinds of them exist today—the echidna and the platypus. But millions of years ago, many different monotremes roamed what is now an area called Lightning Ridge, in Australia. That's where the rare fossils, which were five pieces of jawbone, were originally found.

The fossils were stored at the Australian Museum until two years ago, when scientist Tim Flannery found them. He and his team determined that two of the fossils were from previously

known monotremes, but three were from new species with combinations of features that hadn't been seen before. One, called *Opalios splendens*, had the overall shape of a platypus but a narrow jaw and snout like an echidna, so the researchers nicknamed it *echidnapus*.

WOW!
Modern adult platypuses have no teeth, so they store food in their cheek pouches and mash it up with their jaws.

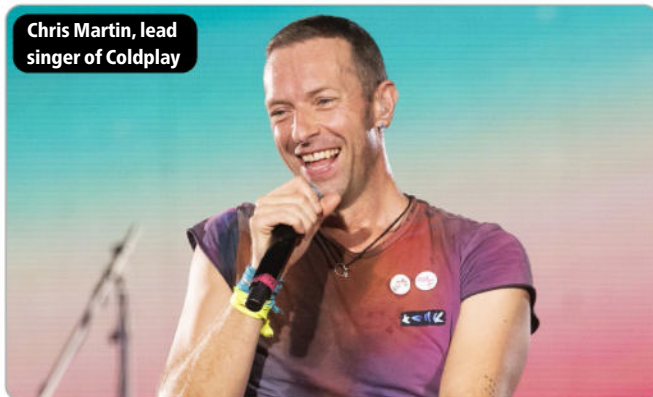
The others were *Parvopalus clytiei*, a land-based creature, and *Dharragarra aurora*, which was similar to the modern platypus. Experts have now

identified six monotremes at Lightning Ridge, making it the most diverse monotreme site in the world. "Discovering these new fossils is the first indication that Australia was previously home to a diversity of monotremes," Flannery told ScienceDaily. "It's like discovering a whole new civilization."



An artist's rendering of prehistoric monotremes

Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay



Famous band beats carbon-cutting goal

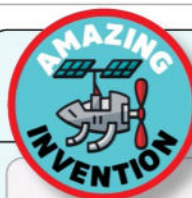
The band Coldplay exceeded a target to reduce the carbon footprint of their world tour. A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂, a greenhouse gas that traps heat in Earth's atmosphere) that is released by human activities.

The band set out to reduce their carbon footprint by 50% compared with previous tours. Within two years, they reduced it by 59%.

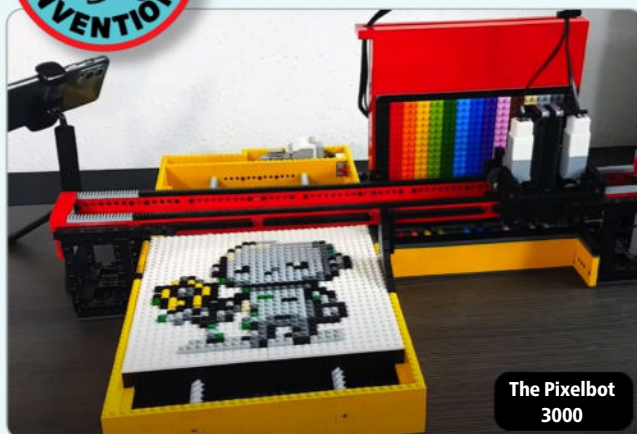
Coldplay achieved this by using renewable energy sources, including

kinetic (relating to motion) dance floors that generate electricity when fans dance. They used less air travel—a major source of CO₂—and put low-energy lighting onstage. The band also planted 7 million trees and recycled or reused 72% of the waste created on tour.

Coldplay set "a new standard for the entire music industry," said John Fernández, a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who helped the band.



A printer that makes art with Legos



The Pixelbot 3000

A YouTuber in the Netherlands named Sten built a printer made entirely of Legos, which prints art using small Lego bricks. The Pixelbot 3000 uses artificial intelligence to generate a cartoon-like image. It scans the image and converts it into pixel art, which consists of small

blocks of color that, together, form a larger image.

Pixelbot 3000 has gears and sensors for precision brick placement. To create the Lego version of the image, it picks up one small brick at a time and places it on a base plate. The bricks function as pixels, forming the colorful artwork.



Sports



DID YOU KNOW?
Spain's team is nicknamed La Roja while Argentina's is called La Albiceleste.

Spain's Alvaro Morata (center) and teammates after the UEFA Euro 2024

Argentina (with Lionel Messi, center) celebrating their Copa America win

Famous flashback



During Euro 2024, photos from 2007 of soccer star Lionel Messi, then age 20, holding a baby who grew up to become Spain's young standout Lamine Yamal (above) were released. At the time, Messi played for FC Barcelona and Yamal's family won the photo shoot in a raffle.

Spain and Argentina are soccer champs

July 14 marked the end of two major international soccer tournaments: the Copa America, which featured teams from the Americas and the Caribbean; and the UEFA European Football Championship. Argentina won the Copa America, earning a record-setting 16th title for that tournament, while Spain won a record-setting fourth Euro title.

The US hosted the Copa America, and the final, between world number one Argentina and 12th-ranked Colombia, was held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Florida. Argentina, the 2022 World Cup champions, were eyeing their third international title in three years. Colombia had not been in a Copa America final since 2001 but were

unbeaten in their previous 28 matches. The US Men's National Team, ranked 11th in the world, did not advance past the group stage.

The start of the final was delayed due to crowd control problems, and the game itself was long and intense. After neither team scored in regulation, they played 30 minutes of extra time. With less than 10 minutes to go, Argentina's Lautaro Martinez scored his fifth goal of the tournament, which was the game winner. The team's captain, Lionel Messi, who is also the captain of Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, watched from the sidelines after leaving the field in the 66th minute with an injury. It was likely his last international match since he is now 37.



Lautaro Martinez

The Euro final was held at the Olympiastadion in Berlin, Germany. Spain, which came in ranked 8th in the world, faced off against England, which was ranked 5th and looking to win their first Euro title. After a scoreless first half, Spain's young stars linked up to open the scoring. Lamine Yamal, age 17, passed to teammate Nico Williams, age 22, who buried a shot into the bottom right corner of the goal. Spain appeared to be in complete control of the game, but with just under 20 minutes left, England's Cole Palmer scored from outside the penalty box.

With less than five minutes left to go, Spain's Marc Cucurella delivered a tremendous pass that found Mikel Oyarzabal, who tapped the ball past the English goalkeeper. It put Spain up 2-1 and ultimately made them the champions of Europe.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

BASEBALL

On July 15, Teoscar Hernández of the Los Angeles Dodgers won the 2024 MLB All-Star Home Run Derby. It was his first time in the competition. He beat Bobby Witt Jr. of the Kansas City Royals by one run. On July 14, in a game before the All-Star break, the Oakland Athletics beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 18-3. Oakland hit eight home runs, the most by any MLB team since 1999. Lawrence Butler knocked out three of them.



Ayaka Furue

GOLF

On July 14, Japan's Ayaka Furue won the Amundi Evian Championship, one of the five majors in women's golf. She clinched the win with an eagle (a score that is two strokes under par) on the final hole. It is her first major title.

SAILING

Spain claimed the Sail Grand Prix Season 4 Championship with a win at the Grand Final in San Francisco Bay on July 14. Spain's SailGP team had finished Season 3 in last place.



GREEN SCENE

Wimbledon's tennis courts are covered in rye grass, which is cut to 8 millimeters high.



Barbora Krejickova (left) and Carlos Alcaraz

Exciting wins at Wimbledon

On July 14, the Wimbledon Championships concluded in London, England. It is one of the four top international tennis tournaments, known as Grand Slams. Each year, it is held at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

In the women's singles final on July 13, Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic, who was seeded (ranked) number 31, upset 7th seed Jasmine Paolini of Italy, 6–2, 2–6, 6–4. Before this year, Paolini had never won a match at Wimbledon. It was Krejickova's first Wimbledon title. There have been eight different Wimbledon women's champions over the past eight years.

After splitting the first two sets, the match was decided with a winner-take-all third. It was a close contest, with the final game requiring 14 points before Krejickova finally earned the victory.

In the men's singles final the next day, 3rd seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain beat 2nd seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia, 6–2, 6–2, 7–6. The win marks the fourth Grand Slam title for Alcaraz, who is 21 years old and also won this year's French Open. The final was a rematch of the 2023 Wimbledon final, which Alcaraz won in five sets.

The match got off to a competitive start, with the opening game lasting 20 points and nearly 15 minutes. By the end of it, Alcaraz had broken Djokovic's serve and taken an important lead. He cruised to victory in the first two sets, then was up 5–4 and serving for the title late in the third. Djokovic fought back from being down 0–40 to win the game. Djokovic eventually went up 6–5, but Alcaraz won the next game to force a tiebreak, which he won, 7–4, to take the title.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Andrew Swanson

AGE: 21 SPORT: GOLF
TEAM: CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Teeing off My dad got me into golf. I played a bit as a kid, then I really got committed around eighth grade. Golf is fun. You have a different shot at every hole. It's a different battle every day.

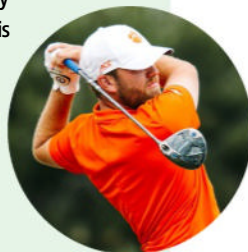
Top idols Growing up, my favorite golfer was Phil Mickelson. He's super creative and would get out of trouble really easily. But my favorite athlete overall was tennis player Roger Federer. He made the game look so easy.

Staying active During the school year, we practice for 20 hours a week, and then I usually do a little bit extra. I also like biking, and I'll play basketball and soccer for fun.

Smart moves This year I won a national award for student athletes with a high grade point average. It's difficult to balance sports and academics. We're gone for four or five days in a row — sometimes we even miss a full week of school. It all comes down to time management.

Keeping calm When you're competing, you may feel a ton of pressure on the first shot of the first hole. First-tee jitters are more excitement than anything else, then you'll settle into a zone and everything flows. When you're stressed, you have to visualize yourself hitting a good shot. You can't think about what could possibly go wrong because if you're thinking about where you don't want to hit the ball, a lot of times you hit it there.

Wise words Some kids focus on one sport for a long time and get really burned out. You want to make sure you have fun, play a ton of different sports, then focus on the one you enjoy the most.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Julia Adams**

Activity: **Ballet**

"Ms. Julia is the best! She always explains combinations well and answers any questions we have. She gives great corrections and explains them in different ways depending on a dancer's needs. Ms. Julia also finds ways to compliment each dancer on their strengths—especially when they've put in extra effort outside class. Even when I make a mistake, she notices my hard work, says, 'Good thinking,' and helps me correct it." Mathilda, 12, California



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



TV HISTORY

The 1950s series *Adventures of Superman* was the first show about a superhero.



Lucian-River Chauhan (right) in *Me*

A new sci-fi show for kids

In the series *Me*, a middle school boy tries to understand himself after he gains the power to shape-shift.

Middle school can be tricky, but for the main character in the new sci-fi series *Me*, it comes with an extra challenge: dealing with new superpowers. The show, which recently premiered on Apple TV+, mixes action and mystery with a story about self-discovery.

Me was created by Barry L. Levy, and he told *The Week Junior* it was inspired by bedtime conversations in which he would ask his son, "If you could be anyone,

who would you be?" When the series begins, 12-year-old Ben has started a new school after his mother remarries, and he goes to bed wanting to reinvent himself. The next morning, he wakes up with the power to shape-shift. Some of his schoolmates also end up with special powers, and like Ben's, they are related to the kids' own struggles. For example, one character who is unable to walk gains the ability to fly. Levy said he wanted to create a world filled with heroes that viewers can see grow up.



Barry L. Levy

"I want their traumas and everyday lives to be the reason you watch them," he said. "It's about their head and heart."

Lucian-River Chauhan, who plays Ben, told *The Week Junior* his character's powers make him a hero, but his personality makes him special, too. "As much as Ben may make mistakes, he's able to learn from them and improve," he said. In fact, the show is a big life lesson about change. As Abigail Pniowsky, who plays Ben's stepsister Max, told *The Week Junior*, "It teaches that it's OK not to fully know who you are yet, and it's OK to grow."

More stories with super kids

Escape to Witch Mountain

In this 1975 film, twins Tony and Tia Malone mysteriously develop mental powers and the ability to communicate with animals.



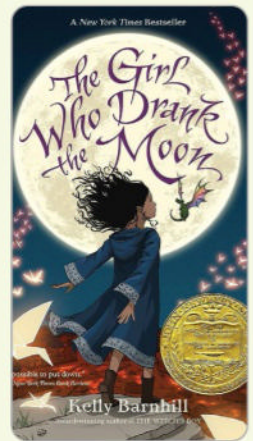
Spider-Man: Homecoming

As fans of this 2017 blockbuster and other Spider-Man stories know, Spidey is the alter ego of high school student Peter Parker, who was bitten by a radioactive spider. It left him with super strength and agility plus heightened senses.



The Girl Who Drank the Moon

Kelly Barnhill's novel is about Luna, a girl raised by a witch. As a baby, Luna accidentally got magical powers, and now she is able to cast spells, detect lies, and heal injuries.





BIG NAME

The Jimmy Awards are named after top Broadway producer James M. Nederlander.



Gretchen Shope (left) and Damson Chola, Jr.

High school performers earn awards

The National High School Musical Theatre Awards (NHSMTA), known as the Jimmy Awards, are major prizes that have been handed out since 2009. They celebrate exceptional teen performers, and many past nominees and winners have gone on to appear in Broadway shows. In late June, a panel of musical theater experts selected two winners from more than 100 finalists: Gretchen Shope from Michigan won best performance by an actress, and Damson Chola Jr. from Texas won best performance by an actor. They each received a \$25,000 scholarship.

This year, more than 10,000 performers across the US were eligible for the competition. To make it to the NHSMTA national finals, students participate in regional competitions, which are sponsored by local professional theaters. The

finalists all gathered for 10 days in New York City, where they took classes, received coaching, and worked on group and solo performances for the main event: the Jimmy Awards ceremony, hosted by singer and Broadway star Josh Groban. As a special perk, the teens also attended the Tony Awards (the top prizes for Broadway).



Josh Groban

The two winners will be starting college in the fall. Chola told Broadway Direct he couldn't believe it when he won but that he "felt a sense of accomplishment and an overwhelming feeling of gratitude." Shope was also grateful for the honor and said she has watched the Jimmy Awards since she was a young girl. "When they called my name, I was thinking of all the little girls I might have been inspiring in that moment," she said. "The thought that I could be someone's reason to pursue their dream is simply magical."

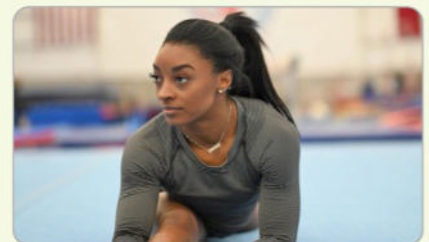


THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Kamp Koral (Paramount+)

July 17 marked the 25th anniversary of the series *SpongeBob SquarePants*. This prequel series, which has returned for a second season, follows 10-year-old SpongeBob and his friends at camp. New episodes include an overnight out of the water and a competition to be the camp mascot.



Simone Biles: Rising (Netflix)

At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, top US gymnast Simone Biles withdrew from the competition to focus on her mental health. In this new four-part documentary, Biles discusses what happened and how she is preparing for the upcoming Olympics in Paris, France. It is rated TV-14.



NFL Flag Football Championships (ABC) (ESPN+) (Disney+)

The first Championship Tournament for youth flag football began on July 18. The event, which is for players ages 9 to 18, has 280 teams and is divided into 11 competitions. Games will be broadcast live, with the finals for boys 15 and under and girls 18 and under airing on July 21.



READER RECOMMENDS



Raya and the Last Dragon PG (Disney+ or rent on other platforms)

"This is my favorite movie because it has action, dragons, and fantasy. Early on, Raya meets a girl who betrays her trust and tries to steal a 500-year-old Dragon Gem that Raya's family has been guarding. The gem protects humans from the evil Druun, but after it gets broken in a fight, the Druun return. Six years later, Raya searches for the gem's pieces across the five regions of her world. In one, she unlocks Sisu, the last living dragon, whose siblings made the gem. The pair make more friends in their travels, and together they try to use the gem to stop the Druun." Annette, 9, Virginia

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



FUN FACT
There is a 45-yard football field inside the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Georgia.



EA Sports College Football 25

College football game returns

College sports fans are celebrating the release of EA Sports College Football 25. The game is out now for PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X and S.

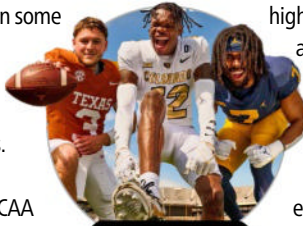
The EA College Football franchise began in 1993, and the last one was released in 2013. It was a big hit, but EA stopped making it because of rules about using the name, image, and likeness of real college athletes. The rules have changed since then, and active players are now in some areas of the game. Three players made the cover: University of Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers, University of Colorado wide receiver/defensive back Travis Hunter, and University of Michigan running back Donovan Edwards.

The game includes all 134 colleges in the FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision), the highest level of competition in the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association). EA spent three years

collecting information from the colleges to ensure that each athlete's plays, stadiums, mascots, cheers, and traditions are represented accurately.

College Football 25 has several gameplay and story modes. The simplest way to play is in a one-off competition against the computer or a friend, in person or online. In Road to Glory mode, you build a career as a player, from high school through college. Every player has different emotional and physical traits, as well as different talents, and all of those help them choose a college. The game also rates the strength of their body and keeps you alert about injury risks.

In Dynasty mode, you act as a head coach, gaining skills and getting promoted over the mode's 30 seasons. You control every aspect of a college's program, including recruiting, as you try to help your team win a national championship.



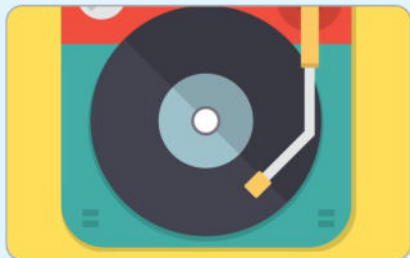
The cover stars

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

BUSY KIDS LOVE MUSIC

Apple Podcasts, Spotify

Each episode of this show is about seven minutes long and explores a single subject related to music, such as the history of the banjo or folk tunes from Zambia. Listeners can also find out about composers and specific works, including music from famous ballets and operas.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



PAPER KAWAII

paperkawaii.com

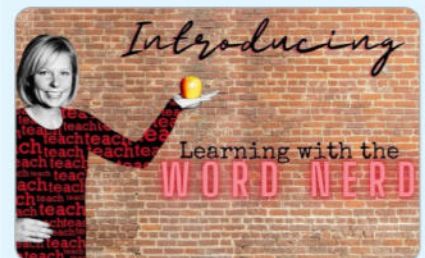
Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding, and this site has instructions for more than 300 different projects for beginners to experts. By following diagrams or looking at video or photo tutorials, you'll see how to create paper animals, flowers, boxes and bowls, and flowerpots.

CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

AMANDA ZIEBA LEARNING WITH THE WORD NERD

youtube.com/@AmandaZiebatheWordNerd

Amanda Zieba creates content for teachers and students. In some videos, she reads the first chapter of a book so viewers can see if they'd like it, and in others, she interviews authors. She also has trivia games that are fun to play with friends.





SUMMER OF READING FEATURED PICK

We Are Big Time

By Hena Khan,
illustrated by Safiya Zerrougui
(Knopf Books for Young Readers)

A few weeks into the school year, Aliya's family moves to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to live closer to her grandparents. Her new all-Muslim high school is much bigger than the one she attended in Florida. On the first day, her gym teacher asks her to shoot a basketball layup. Aliya does it perfectly, and her classmates realize she's an experienced player. They encourage her to try out for the school's team, which has had a losing record. Aliya makes the team and is named co-captain. At first, the team isn't in sync, and Aliya has a hard time balancing practice and homework. The coach helps the team regroup and comes up with the motto "We Are More Than the Score." As their game improves, the players are thrust into the spotlight and mocked by some opponents because they wear hijabs (head coverings). They also face discrimination in other ways. This graphic novel is loosely based on a real-life all-Muslim girls' basketball team. You'll root for the close-knit team through their setbacks and triumphs.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

We Are Big Time blends action-packed basketball games with subplots about friendships, family life, and prejudice. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

How does being on the team help Aliya adjust to her new hometown?

Should Aliya have been named co-captain since she's only a freshman? Why or why not?

What do you think contributed most to the team's improvement?

How does the team stand up to prejudice and bias?

Do you think the portrayal of Aliya having to juggle school and basketball was realistic? Why or why not?

What qualities do you like best about the team's coach?



Our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes, and more can be found at [kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading](https://www.kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading).



Ask the Author Ambassador

Hena Khan has written several award-winning books, and *We Are Big Time* is her first graphic novel. *The Week Junior* talked to her about her new work.

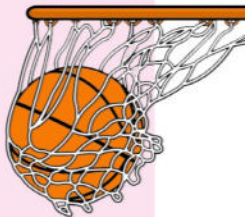


What team is the book based on?

A teacher sent me a news story about the Salam School's girls' varsity basketball team in Milwaukee that had a turnaround season. She knew I liked basketball and had previously set books in Milwaukee.

Did you talk to the players on the team?

I interviewed the coach and four players, then wrote the story based on their responses. For instance, one player told me she had recently moved and another said she's hard on herself as a player. I incorporated those elements into the character of Aliya.



Why did you decide to make the story a graphic novel?

The team's story felt cinematic, and I wanted to portray the diversity among the Muslim girls on the team. Plus, the art makes it easier to follow what's happening during the basketball scenes for readers who aren't familiar with the game.

Did you play basketball as a child?

I played field hockey, but basketball is my family's passion. My husband and two sons play basketball, and my series *Zayd Saleem*, *Chasing the Dream* is loosely based on my husband and one of my sons.

How do you hope readers react to the book?

I hope they feel inspired by what this team achieved personally and athletically.

Favorite NBA team?

The Washington Wizards! I hope they turn it around this year.





How to...

Celebrate the Summer Olympics!

Get ready to watch the 2024 Games in Paris, France, from July 26 to August 11, by creating one or all of these crafts and recipes. Find out more about the Games in our Olympics preview starting on page 12!

Gold-medal cupcakes

Ingredients

- 2 cups white frosting
- Blue food coloring
- 12 cupcakes
- 12 (4-inch) strips sour tape candy
- 12 gold coin foil-wrapped chocolates

Instructions

1. Tint the frosting with the food coloring.
 2. Working with one cupcake at a time, cover a cupcake with an even layer of frosting.
 3. Fold a sour tape strip in half and press it onto the cupcake, as shown.
 4. Add a gold coin at the cut ends of the sour tape.
 5. Repeat above steps with the remaining cupcakes.
- Makes 12 cupcakes.

WRITE TO US!

If you make anything on these pages, ask an adult to email a photo and a quote to hello@theweekjunior.com!



Glowing tea light torch

Ingredients

- Paper towel tube or cardboard tube from wrapping paper, cut to your desired length
- Scrap corrugated cardboard (such as from a shipping or moving box)
- Scissors
- Gold craft paint and paintbrush
- Yellow, orange, and red tissue paper
- Glue or hot glue
- Glue stick
- Battery-operated tea light

Instructions

1. Make the torch: Trace one end of the tube onto the scrap cardboard and cut out the resulting circle. Glue the circle onto one end of the tube to close it.
2. Cut 2 strips of cardboard, long enough to wrap around the tube. Cut the strips so the lines inside the cardboard go up and down (as shown in the photo), not side to side.
3. Glue the wider strip around the closed end of the tube so it sticks up about $\frac{5}{8}$ " and then glue the thinner strip on top.
4. Paint the whole tube gold and allow it to dry.
5. Make the flames: Cut rectangles of the tissue papers and trim a long end into pointy flame shapes. Cut orange flame strips down a bit shorter and the red strip even shorter. Layer them, then use the glue stick to adhere them to each other. Use the glue stick to adhere them inside the top of the tube.
6. Turn the tea light on and place it into the well at the top of the tube. It should fit snugly. If it is too loose, scrunch up a small strip of tissue paper and wrap it around the tea light before placing it back in the tube.





DID YOU KNOW?

The colors of the Olympic rings represent the five inhabited continents of the world.

Festive Olympic rings garland

WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a hot glue gun.

Ingredients

- Small paper plates or bowls with a rounded rim edge
- Scissors
- Craft paint in blue, yellow, black, green, and red
- Paintbrush
- Masking tape, blue painter's tape, or washi tape
- Hot glue
- Ribbon

Instructions

1. Make the rings: Poke one of the scissor blades into the middle of the paper plate or bowl and cut out the center, leaving an intact ring.
2. Paint each ring in the colors of the rings in the Olympic logo: blue, yellow, black, green, and red. Allow the painted rings to completely dry.
3. Cut a single slit in the yellow and green rings. These two rings will be used to link all the rings together.
4. Link the rings as pictured: the blue, black, and red rings on top and the yellow and green rings on the bottom.
5. Once the rings are linked, tape the slits on the yellow and green rings closed. Next, rotate the seam so it's hidden behind an overlapping ring.
6. Tape all the rings in place at the overlapping points. Apply glue from behind and allow the glue to set before carefully removing the tape.
7. Glue or tape a length of ribbon to each end, behind the top of the rings, and allow the glue to set.
8. Hang your Olympic rings garland on a wall, from a mantel, or anywhere you'd like!

Sporty snack board

Create a fun feast with an arrangement of Olympic treats. Start with cut veggies, crackers, and a dip. Then add any of the following:

Cheesy archery targets Start with wax-covered cheese rounds. With an adult's supervision, cut each round with one large circle cutter and then one small one. Remove a strip of wax between the two circles to see cheese underneath. Use the end of a straw to cut a dot in the center.

Sweet and salty arrows Top pretzel sticks with gumdrop points.

Swimmer bears Take graham cracker bears, and with an edible marker, draw on swim goggles. Use a dab of store-bought icing to make a swimsuit and spread with a toothpick.

Torch treats Top mini cupcakes with vanilla frosting and gold star and silver sugar sprinkles. For the torch base, add chocolate-filled waffle cone candies. To make the flames, pipe on orange and yellow frosting with a star tip.

Basketball cookie sandwiches Draw lines onto a vanilla wafer cookie with a black food marker. Drop a small dollop of orange frosting onto another wafer cookie, then sandwich wafers together.

Super stars Cut a yellow bell pepper with star-shaped cookie cutters.





Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these words associated with the Olympics? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ANTHEM
ARENA
ATHLETE
COACH
CROWD
EVENT
FLAGS
GOLD
HOST
JUDGE
MASCOT
MEDAL COUNT
OLYMPIC RINGS

PARADE OF NATIONS
PODIUM
POOL
RACE
RECORD
SCORE
SPORT
STADIUM
TEAM
TIMER
TORCH
TRACK
WINNER



T T A
T R E
H C A O C
L J H E L P A
E O U L Y Y M S R
T P O D I U M P T E
E D I S G C M P T A N
V O R N E T T I O D N
E I A O S F M C A I I
N T N I C E S R T U W
T E E T R E R I H M I
T R A C K R N G H
A N M H E G O
F L A G S
D L O G R T S T H
M E H T N A C
R D R O U R N
C A P O O L G
R T T C E
A O R L S
P C W A T
S O D
A G E
M E M
T H E
R

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

OFF SIDES

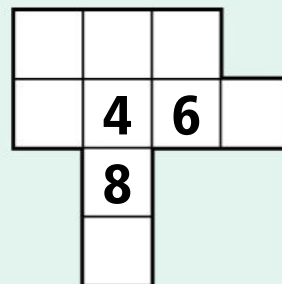
Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

A C G M S T

□ R E A □
□ R E A □
□ R E A □

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word uses every other letter of the first word, like CHAIR and CAR. Only the letters on the red blanks are used in the shorter word.

- After training all day in the heat, the runners were hot and _____, but they knew that hard work was the only _____ to make it to the Olympics.
- As soon as the gymnast came home, she took off the _____ she had been wearing during practice and added it to the _____ of laundry ready to go in the washer.
- On TV it was hard to tell if any of the shot put competitors had stepped outside the marked circle, but the TV _____ told us that _____ of them had done so.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of swimmers about to race appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

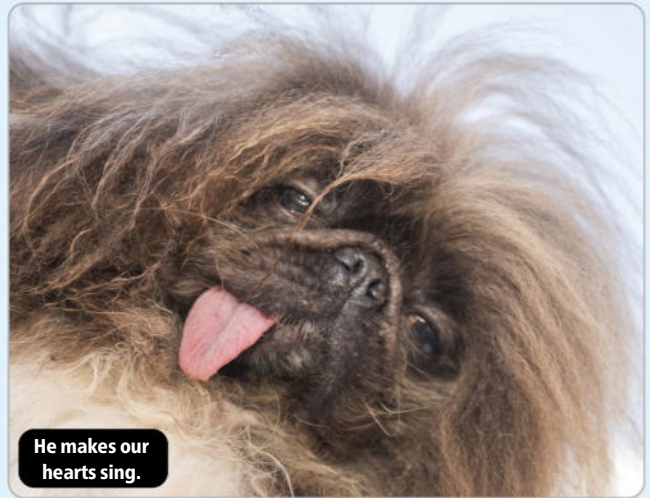




It's bicy-colossal!

Long bike goes for short ride

A man in the Netherlands has achieved his childhood dream of building the world's longest bicycle. "I've been thinking about the idea for years," said Ivan Schalk, 39, who teamed up with engineers in his town to create a 180-foot-long bike. With one person steering handlebars at the front and one pedaling in the back, the contraption traveled 328 feet to earn a world record. The team then added extra pedals and zoomed past another record for a tandem bicycle designed for multiple riders. The bike is now in a local history museum.



He makes our hearts sing.

A prize for the ugliest dog

At a traditional dog show, Wild Thang would be the underdog, but the 8-year-old Pekingese has taken the top prize in the World's Ugliest Dog competition. The contest celebrates "the imperfections that make all dogs special" and tries to show that even the strangest-looking pups "are really beautiful." Because of an illness he contracted as a puppy, Wild Thang has no teeth and his tongue sticks out of his mouth. His unruly fur coat has never been groomed, and he likes to sleep on ice packs. "He was a fan favorite," said judge Fiona Ma. "He deserved to win."



They go nuts for this place.

Cool down at the squirrel spa

While humans can beat the summer heat at a beach or pool, animals don't always have the same options. After noticing that squirrels kept sitting in front of a fan outside her Texas home, Breyana Elwell started leaving out water and frozen fruits for the overheated animals. Now she has built an entire squirrel resort, complete with a dollhouse, water fountain, cooling fans, tiny picnic benches with nuts and other snacks, and a "welcome squirrels" sign. "That's just the start of it," she said. "I have so many more ideas."

Real or fake?



Was it a soup-er fun festival?

Painting the town pink

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, has an entire festival to celebrate the country's love of cold beet soup. Last month, thousands of Lithuanians gathered to enjoy activities themed for the summer dish, such as a long pink slide and a huge inflatable bowl of pink soup to jump into. People dressed in pink soup costumes, broke pink soup records, and cooled down with pink soup ice cream. Dovilė Aleksandravičienė, from the city's tourism agency, said, "It really warms the heart...with pink soup, of course." Is this story real, or is it a recipe for a lie?*

*Real! Dating back to the 18th century, the traditional bright pink soup contains beets, cucumbers, and eggs. Dovilė Aleksandravičienė said that every year, Vilnius Pink Soup Fest "is our unofficial start to the summer season."



Your turn

Editor's note

Three days before this issue went to press, a shooting occurred at a campaign rally for former President Donald Trump (p2). All of us on the editorial team were upset by the news, and we agree with President Joe Biden and the other leaders who said afterward that violence has no place in our democracy. We also know, and want you to know too, that events like this become big news because they are very rare. On November 5, our country will vote in an election not only for President but also for many other offices in Congress and at the state and local levels of government. We encourage you to follow along as the campaign moves forward so you can become informed about the candidates' positions and what is at stake for our nation and for families and individuals. *The Week Junior* will help by continuing to report on the election from now until November and beyond.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



A passionate voice for service

“I am committed to giving children an outlet to reduce anxiety through various activities. Over the past five years, I’ve invited children to do service with me through our community’s adopt-a-highway program. I donate to several food banks and shelters, and I have built my own blessing box with the help of my dad. I fill it up every week with food. I have planned book drives as well as empowerment programs for girls, such as high teas and learning workshops. I want to spread awareness on the importance of serving.”



Madaline, 10, North Carolina

JOKE OF THE WEEK
How was that book about helium?

I couldn't put it down!

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



The Farmlink Project

This organization's goal is to reduce food waste and help fight hunger. It takes surplus fruits and vegetables from farmers and distributes the produce to food banks, senior centers, and communities. It also runs programs for teenagers who want to find solutions to food waste. Since its founding in 2020, it has provided more than 150 million meals. Find out more at farmlinkproject.org.



SUMMER OF READING

Enter to win books!

This is the sixth issue of our Summer of Reading campaign! We hope you enjoy our interview with Author Ambassador Hena Khan and a review of her new book *We Are Big Time* (p23). Our reading challenge continues! Once you've finished reading any three books, go to tinyurl.co/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge with an adult to enter our sweepstakes. Four winners will receive books, and one will win books and a video call with an Author Ambassador. For our list of “The 50 Books Kids Love Most,” go to kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



THE WEEK
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IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

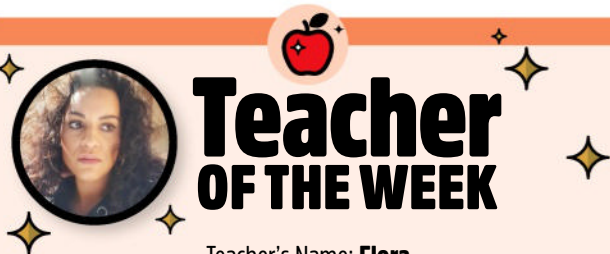


"I loved reading about the orangutans and how they build their nests." **Jordy, 10, Illinois**

"I made this bookmark from the How To section. It was fun." **Akhil, 8, Virginia**



"I love reading *The Week Junior* with my cat Nacho. The magazine helps me learn about the world." **Emily, 11, Montana**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Flora**

School: **Central Park East II**

"Flora was the best teacher. She taught subjects in different ways to help us understand them better. When she finished graduate school, she wrote all of our names on her cap and said we all went to graduation with her. She went out of her way to make us feel comfortable and safe in the classroom and always made sure everyone was included. She is the best teacher ever."

Shula, 10, New York

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



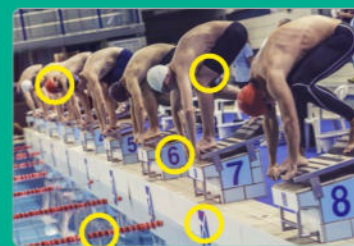
Word search

Unused letters: The Olympic motto is "Faster, higher, stronger—together."

7	9	1
2	4	6
8		3
5		

Off sides
areas
cream
great

Fill in the blanks
1. sweaty, way
2. leotard, load
3. announcer, none



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 a) Crawfish 2 False. They believe it is rocky, like Earth. 3 c) 4 4 b) Shape-shifting 5 Jimmy Awards 6 a) 2 7 Eiffel Tower 8 True 9 b) Layup 10 c) Senegal 11 False. Women recover faster than men. 12 Road to Glory 13 b) Dawn Staley 14 True 15 Wild Thang

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Louisiana's new "I Voted" sticker has what kind of cartoon animal on it?

a) Crawfish b) Oyster c) Shrimp

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Scientists think LHS 1140 b, the "eyeball planet," is made of gas, like Neptune.

True ☐ False ☐

3 How many major tennis championships have been won by Carlos Alcaraz of Spain?

a) 2 b) 3 c) 4

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 In the new sci-fi series *Me*, what superpower does Ben wake up with one morning?

a) Flight b) Shape-shifting c) Teleportation

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 What are the National High School Musical Theatre Awards known as?

6 How many species of egg-laying mammals exist today?

a) 2 b) 4 c) 6

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 This year's Paris Olympics medals will have a piece of iron from what iconic structure?

8 True or false? Sharks' muscles perform better in warmer water.

True ☐ False ☐



9 In the book *We Are Big Time*, what basketball shot does Aliya do perfectly on her first day in a new gym class?

a) Free throw b) Layup c) Three-pointer

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 A giant pangolin has been spotted in what country for the first time in 24 years?

a) Mali b) Niger c) Senegal

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? Scientists found that men recover faster than women from the physical challenges of space travel.

True ☐ False ☐

12 In the video game EA Sports College Football 25, which story mode lets you build a player's career through college?

13 Who won the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance at this year's ESPY Awards?

a) Aja Wilson b) Dawn Staley

c) Serena Williams

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? Ross Edgley was the first person in history to swim around the coast of Great Britain.

True ☐ False ☐

15 What is the name of the winner of this year's World's Ugliest Dog competition?

THE WEEK Junior

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**WATER
WONDER**

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